

LCS Statement on HVAC related topics:

Lexington City Schools works closely with our contracted HVAC provider, Honeywell, to ensure our air systems are the safest and most efficient possible. Our Director of Operations engages in ongoing conversations with our provider. Honeywell is closely monitoring and following ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) guidelines: <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/commercial#indooroutdoor> to run our facilities. Our system is set up to bring in 100% fresh air as it operates to control the temperature and humidity in our buildings. Extreme humidity, which affects our area most of the time, would cause harm to the systems and create an unsafe environment for the occupants of the building (air quality would suffer, humidity would rise causing wet floors and potential mold) if windows or exterior doors are left open. Windows will not be opened due to the reasons stated within. We will encourage teachers and staff to leave their classroom doors open to the hallway to increase air circulation whenever possible. Administration continues to encourage teachers to take classes outside for learning opportunities, as well as during lunch time. Areas have been identified, and administrators have assigned areas on a rotating basis, to help keep classes safely distanced while enjoying outdoor spaces on campus. Both of our schools have HVAC units that have been installed within the last 11 years and are current, robust systems according to ASHRAE-15 standards. Other school divisions, with older systems, have added features to their systems, but our contractors feel our systems, due to engineered systems that we possess, do not need these additional features. The systems in our buildings were uniquely designed and engineered to have proper ventilation for maximum occupancy loads of each space. Our systems are set to bring in 100% fresh air during all occupied hours, which account for several hours before staff and students arrive and several hours after they leave each afternoon. The system settings

have been modified to turn on two hours earlier than normal each morning, in order to completely purge the air within each building. We are in constant communication with our HVAC contractors and continue to have conversations concerning our system and its ability to provide high air quality for our students and staff. While we understand that no HVAC system is perfect, we stand by the professionals from Honeywell to help guide our decisions.